

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

*Editorial note:* For the President's remarks of Apr. 21, 1989, on signing Proclamation 5959, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 25, p. 592).

**Proclamation 5960 of April 21, 1989**

**Death of American Servicemen on Board the USS IOWA**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

As a mark of respect for the American servicemen who died as a result of the accident aboard the USS IOWA, which occurred on April 19, 1989, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and Possessions until sunset, Tuesday, April 25, 1989. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Proclamation 5961 of April 28, 1989**

**National Arbor Day, 1989**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

When Arbor Day was first observed in Nebraska 117 years ago, it demonstrated the important role that trees play in our daily lives. The occasion called Americans' attention to the fact that our heavy use of wood for fuel, lumber, and other products was depleting our Nation's trees at an alarming rate.

Arbor Day inspired many Americans to join efforts to protect this precious resource—and all areas of our environment—for the sake of future generations. Today, Americans continue to cultivate trees with the same sense of stewardship. During the past 8 years, we have plant-

ed increasing numbers of them, culminating in last year's record acreage of trees planted in a single year.

National Arbor Day reminds us of the importance of planting and caring for the trees in our neighborhoods and countryside, but it also serves a larger purpose. Arbor Day provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about the vital function that trees—everywhere from our national forests to tropical mangrove swamps—have in the global ecosystem. It invites us to study how we can best protect them from desertification and overdevelopment in many areas of the world. National Arbor Day is also a time for us to recognize the many volunteers across the United States who participate in reforestation and habitat restoration projects. These volunteers have helped to transform hundreds of acres of reduced forest into thriving woodlands.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 28, 1989, as National Arbor Day and call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5962 of April 28, 1989

## Loyalty Day, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

True patriotism requires more than civic pride; it also requires constant loyalty to the principles upon which our country was founded. On the 1st of May each year, we Americans observe "Loyalty Day"—an occasion for reaffirming our allegiance to the United States and our devotion to the ideals of liberty and self-government.

Loyalty Day reminds us that freedom and democratic government are principles worthy of our lasting fidelity. Noting that it was not only their right but also their duty to oppose despotism, our Nation's founders boldly declared America's freedom and independence. "For the support of this Declaration," they avowed, ". . . we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." Despite the great risks and sacrifices they would surely face, the Founders knew that securing the God-given rights and freedom of the American people warranted such a solemn promise.

Generations of Americans since then have expressed the same selfless devotion to the cause of freedom. Although they were cruelly tested by the horrors of war, our Nation's veterans—and those servicemen and women who were killed in the line of duty—demonstrated exceptional devotion to their country. Those who wear our Nation's uniform today,